THE DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR THE H.E.S.S. TELESCOPE SYSTEM

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The H.E.S.S. imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescope system is currently under construction at a site in the Khomas highland of Namibia. In phase I, the system will consist of four telescopes with a designed trigger rate of 1 kHz and a corresponding data rate of 5 MBytes/s. The hardware of the data acquisition system consists of front-end computers, a gigabit ethernet switch, and a central Linux PC farm. The software to process the data from the heterogeneous set of data sources utilizes an object-oriented framework, consisting of modular building blocks to allow for flexible configurations. These building blocks use the CORBA protocol for communication and ROOT for on-line monitoring and event storage. This paper will give an overview of the design of the data aqcuisition system and first performance results.